

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 08981 121624Z

62

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 VO-03 EB-07 COME-00 CU-02 USIA-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1158

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E. O. 116"2: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, XF, OAU, NI, SCUL

SUBJ: ARIKPO ON FESTAC

I SAW DR. ARIKPO AGAIN THIS MORNING IN CONNECTION WITH
ISSUANCE OF VISA FOR HIS WIFE WHO WILL SOON VISIT FRIENDS
IN NEW YORK FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. HE SAID FESTAC COULD NOT
BE HELD ANY SOONER THAN A YEAR FROM NOW BECAUSE NEW REGIME
KNEW THEY HAD TO PROVE THEMSELVES FIRST; MANY AFRICANS AND
OTHERS HAD BEEN DEEPLY DISTURBED BY THE JULY 29 COUP AND
WOULD REFUSE TO COME TO THE FESTIVAL UNTIL NEW GOVERNMENT
HAD ESTABLISHED A SOLID RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT ON THE HOME
FRONT AND RESPONSIBILITY AND GOOD BEHAVIOR ON THE INTERNATIONAL
SCENE. HE DEFENDED THE FESTIVAL, SAYING ITS CRITICS FAILED
TO REALIZE THAT MANY OF THE PREPARATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN
THE AREA OF HOUSING, REPRESENTED ACTIONS THAT THE GOWON
REGIME SHOULD HAVE TAKEN LONG BEFORE AND WOULD BE IMMENSELY
USEFUL AFTER THE FESTIVAL WAS OVER.
EASUM

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Message Attributes

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